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Security Council

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Letter dated 3 April 2001 from the President of the Governing Council of the United Nations Compensation Commission addressed to the President of the Security Council

Further to my letter dated 16 March 2001 (S/2001/403), I am pleased to provide you with the following information concerning the reconvened thirty-ninth session of the Governing Council of the United Nations Compensation Commission.

The Governing Council held its thirty-ninth session at Geneva from 13 to 15 March 2001, and decided to adjourn the session until 2 April 2001 to allow the Council further time to consider the issue of the provision of technical assistance to Iraq.

At its meeting on 2 April 2001 the Council reached the following conclusion:

"Taking into account the Executive Secretary's recommendations, the Working Group further discussed the issue of making funds available to Iraq for purposes of hiring experts to assist in preparing Iraq's responses to claims in general and in particular the environmental claims.

"Subject to agreement on modalities and without prejudice to the respective positions of Governing Council members, the Governing Council agrees in principle that funds be made available for the purpose of hiring experts, through the Commission's budget, whose work will be of assistance to Iraq in responding to the F4 environmental claims.

"The Working Group will continue the discussion of the issues referred to in paragraph 22 of decision 114 (S/AC.26/Dec.114 (2001)) at an informal meeting to be held on 4 May 2001. The Working Group recommends that a special session of the Governing Council be convened to hear the report of the Working Group prior to the fortieth session of the Council."

As stated above the Working Group will meet on 4 May 2001 to further discuss this issue.

I will keep you informed of the Governing Council's further discussions following that meeting.

(*Signed*) Sverre Bergh **Johansen**
President of the Governing Council

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